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Studying the Mosquito

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Since the famous yellow fever commission, headed by Dr. Walter Reed, succeeded in laying at the door of the mosquito the responsibility for the spread of yellow fever, that saucy little insect has had its home and its habits pried into on every hand, and in ten years the world has learned more about it than in all the generations before. And still the scientist is not satisfied with what he has learned of it, but is studying with more determination than ever. A few decades ago men knew that there were only a few species, or tribes of mosquitos. Now they know 400 species, and the end is not yet.

One of the most interesting additions to our knowledge of the mosquito is that just given out by the Smithsonian Institution, which is the result of the investigations made by August Busck of the mosquito life along the Panama canal. By patient search, covering the end of one dry season and the beginning of the following rainy season, he was able to get together 90 different kinds of them. Some of them were good, others were bad, and a few were indifferent. The good ones seemed to make a business of eating the young of the bad ones while the indifferent ones did no more harm than to bite whenever opportunity offered. Thirty of the species he found were entirely new to science, and it is his opinion that continued search would reveal still others. But even the present knowledge of the isthmian mosquito shows more different species in that territory than in any other territory of equal size in the world.

There are three kinds of mosquitos which are most familiar to the layman, just as the Smith, Brown and Jones families are said to be the most numerous in the English-speaking world. The most familiar of the mosquito families is the Culex. There are dozens of different branches of this family, but the kinship is not so remote but that the entomologist can trace the likeness. This Culex family of mosquitos is a very reputable one. Of course it bites, and is very bothersome at times, but yet it has never been convicted of any high crimes and misdemeanors, such, for instance, as the spread of disease.

Next to the Culexes are the Anopheles. There is but little to be said in their behalf, though they are able to put up a pretty defense. They are the carriers of the malaria germ. Science has not made out a good case against the whole family, and it appears that there are some of them which do not deserve the opprobrium that the sufferer from chills and fever hurls at the whole tribe. But the most of them do spread malaria. They, however, take a different view of the situation. From their standpoint it is man that gives them malaria, and they only return it with interest.

It happens this way. Here is a splendid looking specimen of the mosquito kind—a female always. She happens to meet with a person on her travels, and she concludes to suck a little blood. She never heard of such a thing as malaria, and the person does not advise her of the fact that he has it. The result is a sick mosquito, suffering from malaria. She loafs around awhile, nursing herself back to health, and when she gets well enough to travel about again, she gets a thirst for human gore once more, and bites some other person. She has a little saw and spear with which she attacks him, and in order to aid in the extraction of the blood she puts a little saliva into the wound she makes. It so happens that in this saliva is the germ that she caught from biting the other person, and in this way the second person gets it. When this germ lands into the second human body it attacks the red corpuscles in the blood. The germ multiplies with lightning rapidity, and the chills and fever follow the breaking of the corpuscles asunder in great numbers.

The third family, known to the layman, is the Stegomyia. This is the family that is responsible for the spread of yellow fever. Some of the members are probably innocent, but the whole family has been put under the ban. This family constitutes the aristocracy of the mosquito world. These mosquitos wish no mud puddles for their homes, no dwelling places in swamps. They want fashionable quarters near human beings. They want clean quarters, too. These quarters must be rain barrels, vases, idle water buckets and such places. They like to live in people's houses, and to adjust their habits to those of the household, while the Anopheles family insist on coming around after bedtime.

The health of each member of the Stegomyia family is always good until one happens to bite some person who has yellow fever. Through drinking this sick person's blood, it gets a germ into its little inside that makes it sick. This germ eats through the walls of the mosquito's stomach and plays other bad tricks. At the end of 12 days that germ has become a live wire, even though it is so fine that the best microscope fails to reveal it. When an infected mosquito wants another dinner of human blood and bites a person, it hands back the germ it inadvertently took from the yellow fever patient it had bitten before. This germ does not attack the red corpuscles like the malaria germ, but revels in the liquid part instead, with even more fatal effects. The Stegomyia defends itself by showing that never in the history of its race did it give yellow fever to man until man had first given the disease to it. And it would take a judge wise enough to tell which came first, the egg or the hen, to decide whether man first gave yellow fever to the mosquito or the mosquito to man.

The male mosquito is something of a musician, and if you want to see him all attention make a sound of 512 vibrations to the second, and he will begin to dance around with the grace of a peacock. That is the tone in

which his mate calls him. A Southern electrician some years ago accidentally learned about this trait of the mosquito. He was experimenting with a harmonic telegraph instrument. The moment the instrument reached a certain pitch every male mosquito within hearing distance came hot foot to the scene, but the sound had no attractions for the females.

It is said that the Culex females always mediate awhile before biting, but that the Anopheles go right into the bloody work with the air of a surgeon who would have it quickly over. It is contended that the fact that the male mosquito never bites is not to be attributed to any particular forbearance or goodness of heart, but rather to the fact that his head is not properly equipped for bloodsucking on a satisfactory scale. Some of the recent investigators even go so far as to believe that it is an acquired habit with the female and not a natural one. It will be remembered that there is a wild bird which learns to kill sheep after long association with the shepherd's flock. So it is with the female mosquitos, according to these investigators. These insects first learn to suck liquids from the eyes of animals and then acquire the habit of going beneath the skin. In many instances, it is asserted, they acquire their taste for blood by making a dinner in fresh wounds. They have a little bulb in their proboscis like a fountain pen filler, and draw the blood with that.

Some mosquitos will bite one person and show a distaste for another. Experiments have shown that the average male mosquito is fond of beer and wine, while the female will have nothing to do with such things. The male is essentially a vegetarian.

Unless Isaac Weld were qualifying for membership in the Ananias club, George Washington lost his reputation for veracity when discussing the mosquito. Weld declares in his "Travels Through North America" that George Washington told him that, of a truth, he had encountered mosquitos which were able to bite through the thickest boot. As this was in the campaigns around New York and in New Jersey some will still believe that the Father of his Country was not exaggerating even there.

The department of agriculture has recently issued a new bulletin on the economic losses caused by insect pests. The mosquito has its character blackened in that report to such an extent as to constitute criminal libel. Not only is it charged with being responsible for much disease and suffering, with heavy economic losses attendant thereupon, but the assertion is made that it retards the development of states and nations, and has caused the decline and decay of other nations. It is charged that vast areas around New York, which would otherwise be beehives of industry and thrift, are held under the dominion of the mosquito and made as uninhabitable to humanity as the bleakest peak in the Rocky Mountains. In other places they have so annoyed the cows that the milk supply ran short and left the dairyman a bankrupt. At Sheephead bay they annoyed the race horses so much that the track authorities spent thousands of dollars in banishing them from that section. One writer declares that New Jersey taxable values are \$10,000,000 below what they would be if it were not for the mosquito. Another believes that the introduction of malaria into Greece was largely responsible for the progressive physical degeneration of one of the strongest races of history. Still another asserts that half of Italy is rendered more or less inhospitable to mankind because of the malarial mosquito.

And so the indictment runs. Charged with causing the death of more than 100,000 American citizens every decade, and with bringing about 3,000,000 cases of malaria every year, all of it resulting in an economic loss large enough to maintain the whole American army year in and year out, the Anopheles family stands a good prospect of being banished forever by the court of enlightened opinion, and the "evil night air" will be robbed of its terrors. There are fish that have an appetite for the larvae of malarial mosquitos greater than that of a ferret for the blood of a rat. In the island of Barbados these fish have effectively kept the malarial mosquito from multiplying. America will probably import many such fish within the next few years, and they will help solve the problems of mosquito extermination.

WEALTHY TOURIST ENDS HIS LIFE

(Continued from Page One.)

A couple of months ago Mr. Nichols arrived here from the mainland and took apartments at the Hawaiian. He was accompanied by an attendant, a young man named Leo Namais. Mr. Nichols seemed to be a sufferer from insomnia, and among the various drugs he took to promote sleep was chloroform. On arrival here he placed himself under the care of Dr. Collins, and to the latter he showed the large bottle of chloroform. The doctor took care to get the bottle away from him, and whenever the patient required chloroform the attendant obtained a dose from a smaller bottle.

On Sunday afternoon Mr. Nichols told his man that he could take the afternoon off if he wished. The old man's wishes were law, and the valet took the afternoon off from three o'clock, returning shortly after six o'clock. A Japanese boy, who acted as assistant to Namais, was on duty, watching at the bedroom door to see that none disturbed the man within. About seven o'clock, Namais looked into the bedroom of Mr. Nichols and saw him lying on the bed and noted that he moved at that time. A blanket was drawn up to his ears and also covered his feet. Namais did not enter the room, fearing to disturb his employer, who possessed an irascible temper.

The Japanese boy placed a chair just outside the door and remained there until about eleven o'clock, when Namais

Remnant Sale

We are going to begin a Sale of Remnants on Tuesday Morning, pieces left over from the big sale.

LACES, EMBROIDERIES, DRESS GOODS, DRAPIERIES, SILKS AND SATINS, TABLE DAMASK, TOWELING, ETC.

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We have just received an entirely new line of Ladies' New Short Kid Gloves in black, white and tan; also new Ruchings in assorted colors.

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The quality of our stove coal and our prompt delivery are the means of bringing us many new orders.

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returned from an evening stroll. The boy told him the man had not moved during the evening. In the meantime he had communicated with Clerk Brown of the hotel, and all three entered the room. On throwing back the blanket, a handkerchief was found covering the face of the supposed sleeper and the fumes of chloroform were strong. The big bottle lay near his nose with the cork drawn. This bottle had been hidden by Namais, but during the afternoon, while the boy was absent, Mr. Nichols had apparently made a search for it and found it. There was every indication of a carefully-planned determination on the part of the dead man to take his life, and no post mortem on the remains was deemed necessary by Coroner Rose.

The funeral will take place this afternoon at three o'clock from the undertaking parlors of Henry Williams. The remains are to be cremated, such instructions having been received from the nephew of the deceased in New York, who was notified yesterday by cable of his uncle's death. A. L. C. Atkinson, the attorney, has charge of the affairs of the deceased.

Mr. Nichols is believed to have been wealthy. His effects show that he had a letter of credit for a large amount, and the stubs in his check book show that while in San Francisco he paid out large sums to the St. Francis Hotel. As far as known he has been a stockbroker in New York, and is not married.

A PIGEON'S FIRST EGG.

John Burroughs told a Makawao boy that a pigeon always laid her first egg on the very day she was six months old, on her birthday in fact, and also that a male pigeon stands higher and has larger eyes than a female. This information may prove interesting to other youngsters.—Maui News.

CORPORALS THREE ATTEMPT BLUFF GAME

(Continued from Page One.)

other which, however, failed to land. His fist struck a window glass, however, breaking it. Buddha was promptly arrested and taken to the station house.

Yesterday forenoon three corporals appeared in the receiving station and stated that they had been sent in from Fort Shafter to take Buddha to the post where his case would be attended to by the military authorities. As this has been a custom in many cases where with a different watch was successful.

But they shouted before they were out of the woods. The party went around the corner where they talked and bragged how they had fooled the police officers, saying it was just a bluff on their part to get Buddha out of jail. They were telling Buddha how it all happened, but standing nearby them all this time was Deputy Sheriff Rose. He listened to the entire explanation, and then suddenly broke into the fun by rearresting Buddha and taking him back to the station. Fort Shafter headquarters were telephoned to and the officer in charge was asked whether a detail of men had been ordered to bring Buddha to the post. The reply was a negative one. Later on a detail was sent in by Major Dunning. The police have the names of the non-coms and it is probable that action in their cases will be taken at once.

The Wailuku Sugar Company has completed grinding for the season with an output of 17,800 tons of sugar, or 1800 tons above the estimate.